

Karen Kafadar Elected President of the ASA

ALEXANDRIA, VA (May 16, 2017) – Karen Kafadar, chair and Commonwealth Professor in the department of statistics at the University of Virginia (UVA), has been elected the 114th president of the American Statistical Association (ASA). She will serve a one-year term as president-elect beginning January 1, 2018; her term as president becomes effective January 1, 2019.

The ASA membership also elected Katherine Monti, formerly chief statistical scientist at Rho, as ASA vice president. Monti's term also begins January 1, 2019.

“Complex problems—such as detecting emerging epidemics, ensuring food safety, protecting communications and other infrastructure networks and establishing overall reliable standards—cannot be solved by single individuals. Statisticians are critical components of teams that address problems in academia, industry and government, yet, all too often, their involvement arises by serendipity,” said Kafadar. “I’m eager to serve as ASA president in 2019 and look forward to engaging ASA members and the broader statistical community to expand efforts that will forecast areas of change, inspire the next generation of statistical thinkers and generate diverse opportunities for professionals to grow collectively and in their specialty.”

In her current role, Kafadar's research interests focus on robust methods; exploratory data analysis; characterization of uncertainty in the physical, chemical, biological and engineering sciences; and methodology for the analysis of screening trials, which includes awards from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ASA and American Society for Quality.

Prior to her faculty appointment at UVA, Kafadar was a mathematical statistician at the National Institute of Standards and Technology; member of the technical staff at Hewlett Packard's RF/Microwave R&D Department; fellow in the Division of Cancer Prevention at the National Cancer Institute; professor and Chancellor's Scholar at the University of Colorado-Denver and the Rudy Professor of Statistics at Indiana University.

Kafadar's professional accomplishments and activities are vast. She currently serves as the biology and genetics editor for *The Annals for Applied Statistics* and previously was editor of the *Journal of the American Statistical Association's* Review Section and *Technometrics*. Additionally, she chairs the ASA's Committee on Statistics in Forensic Science, serves on the Forensic Science Standards Board and is active on National Academy of Sciences committees. She is a fellow of the ASA, American Association for the Advancement of Science and International Statistical Institute; has authored more than 100 journal articles and book chapters; and has advised numerous graduate students.

She earned her PhD in statistics at Princeton University and both her master's degree in statistics and bachelor's degree in mathematics from Stanford University.

Katherine Monti was highly regarded throughout her career, which spanned academia, industry, medical devices and pharmaceuticals. For 18 years, she worked at Rho, Inc., a contract research organization providing clinical research throughout the drug development process. Prior to that, she served as associate director at Astra Pharmaceuticals, senior statistician at Ciba Corning Diagnostics, senior statistician at Ralston Purina and assistant professor in the department of mathematical sciences at the University of Missouri-St. Louis.

Some of Monti's major statistical activities have been in the field of clinical trials, applications to veterinary medicine and food science and design of experiments. Additionally, she has worked on two legal cases, one regarding salary discrimination and another regarding false advertising. In mentoring colleagues, she taught by case-study example, emphasizing both statistics and situation management, which left a lasting impression on coworkers and students who came to appreciate the unique stories she shared.

Monti is an ASA fellow and served as the Council of Chapters Representative to the ASA Board and as a board representative on the Council of Chapters Governing Board. She has held several committee and section appointments, including on the Committee on Fellows, Advisory Committee on Continuing Education, Biopharmaceutical Section and Committee on Law and Justice Statistics. Her involvement with the ASA Boston Chapter spanned several officer positions, and she was also a member of the North Carolina Chapter.

The ASA membership also elected the following:

- Katherine Halvorsen, professor of mathematics and statistics, Smith College, as the Council of Sections Representative to the ASA Board
- Don Jang, vice president and director, Center for Excellence in Survey Research, NORC at the University of Chicago, as the Council of Chapters Representative to the ASA Board
- Scott Evans, senior research scientist, Center for Biostatistics in AIDS Research, Department of Biostatistics, Harvard University, as the Publications Representative to the ASA Board
- Natalie Rotelli, consultant computational statistician, Eli Lilly and Co., as chair-elect of the Council of Sections Governing Board
- Isaac Nuamah, director, clinical biostatistics, Janssen R&D, as chair-elect of the Council of Chapters Governing Board.

The entire slate of election results, including officers for each of the ASA's 27 sections, is accessible [here](#).

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About the American Statistical Association

The ASA is the world's largest community of statisticians and the oldest continuously operating professional science society in the United States. Its members serve in industry, government and academia in more than 90 countries, advancing research and promoting sound statistical practice to inform public policy and improve human welfare. For additional information, please visit the ASA website at www.amstat.org.

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